

Older Lives Count

Depression and Suicide in Mature Adults

A free conference
organized and
sponsored by the
Tennessee Suicide
Prevention Network

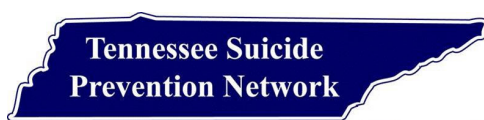
- While the elderly make up only 12.6% of Tennessee's population in 2006, they accounted for 14.9% of the suicides.
- Each day 15 people over the age of 65 are lost to suicide--one every 97 minutes.
- Nationally, suicide rates for 2005 ranged from 12.6 per 100,000 among persons aged 65 to 74, to 16.9 per 100,000 persons aged 75 to 84. The rate for the general public was only 11 per 100,000.
- White men over the age of 85 are at the greatest risk of all demographic groups. In 2003, the suicide rate for these men was 48.7 per 100,000, more than four times the current overall rate.
- Contrary to popular opinion, only a fraction (2-4%) of suicide victims have been diagnosed with a terminal illness at the time of their death. Two-thirds of older adult suicide victims were in relatively good physical health at the time. 80% of elderly suicides over 75 have seen a primary care physician within 6 months of their suicide. 75% have seen a physician within a month of their deaths; 35% within a week; 20% within 24 hours.
- The vast majority of elderly suicide victims have at least one psychiatric diagnosis. Two-thirds of these diagnoses are for late-onset, single-episode clinical depression.
- As many as 75% of depressed older Americans are not receiving the treatment they need.
- Elderly persons are less likely to call crisis lines than their younger counterparts.

The Mid-Cumberland Region of the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network invites you to a conference on suicide among older adults and what we can do to help seniors with depression and other mental health concerns.

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### Scheduled Topics

Depression and Suicide among Older Adults  
Depression and Its Effects on Physical Illnesses  
The Aftermath of Suicide



*"Saving Lives in Tennessee"*

Thursday, May 28, 2009  
Knowles Senior Activities Center  
174 Rains Avenue, Nashville  
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
RSVP: Misty Yarbrough at (615) 269-5355  
or myarbrough@mhamt.org